

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00426 031622 Z

67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

SECSTATE WASHDC 2012

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0426

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MOPS PINS MZ

SUBJ: REPORT OF SPANISH PASSENGER KILLED IN MOZAMBIQUE

REF: A. LOURENCO MARQUES 424; B. LISBON 2452

1. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT MAN KILLED IN FRELIMO ATTACK ON PLANE WAS WELL KNOWN SPANISH SURGEON.

2. WHILE THERE IS SOME BASIS FOR LISBON' S CONCERN EXPRESSED REF B, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SITUATION IS APPRECIABLY ALTERED FROM WHAT IT HAS BEEN IN TETE- NORTHERN BEIRA DISTRICT SINCE FRELIMO STARTED BEING ACTIVE IN MUNGARI AREA: FRELIMO HAS AND ALWAYS HAS HAD CAPABILITY OF HARASSMENT AND PENETRATION OVER WIDE AREA BY SMALL GROUPS OF INSURGENTS.

3. MARINGUE IS ACTUALLY 50 KM. NORTH OF NORTHERNMOST POINT OF GORONGOSA PARK, IS SEPARATED FROM PARK BY MOUNTAINOUS REGION, AND IS PART OF GENERAL AREA WHERE FRELIMO ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN SPORADICALLY ACTIVE FOR SOME MONTHS. ON OTHER HAND, AREA " NORTH OF PUNGUE RIVER", WHICH FLOWS FROM BEIRA CITY
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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00426 031622 Z

NORTHWEST THROUGH SOUTHERN PORTION OF GORONGOSA PARK, IS SUFFICIENTLY VAGUE, COVERS LARGE ENOUGH REGION, AND IN PARTS IS SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE TO BEIRA- RHODESIAN HIGHWAY, TO MERIT SOME CONCERN.

4. HOWEVER, SO FAR AS WE KNOW, TOURISTS ARE STILL MOTORING NORMALLY INTO GORONGOSA WITHOUT INCIDENT. I DID SO MYSELF ON JUNE 8, AND I UNDERSTAND CIT IS SENDING PARTY OF 70 TOURISTS INTO PARK JULY 6 WEEKEND BY ROAD, WITH EXPLANATION THAT SITUATION IS EVEN SAFER THAN BEFORE, DUE TO PRECAUTIONS PORTUGUESE SECURITY FORCES NOW TAKING. LARGE NUMBER OF RHODESIAN TOURISTS ARE EXPECTED IN BEIRA THIS WEEKEND BECAUSE OF RHODESIAN HOLIDAY. I SHALL BE ABLE TO CHECK THIS, AS AM ATTENDING CEREMONY IN DONDO AT SAME TIME. (IF FRELIMO HAS INDEED BEEN PROSELYTIZING IN " AREA SOUTHEAST OF BEIRA," THEY MUST BE AFTER DOLPHINS.)

5. BELIEVE CARTAXAENA' S REMARKS SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH DUE RESERVE. HE TENDS TO BE HOSTILE TO PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES AND THUS FAR HIS PRIVATE REPORTS ON FRELIMO STRENGTH AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE PROVED TO BE EXAGGERATED.

6. COMMENT: BELIEVE IT WOULD TAKE A SUBSTANTIAL WORSENING OF SITUATION TO CAUSE PORTUGUESE TO CLOSE GORONGOSA PARK (EXCEPT WHEN RAINS RENDER PARK ROADS IMPASSABLE), AS PORTUGUESE WELL AWARE OF SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA REPERCUSSIONS SHOULD THIS WELL KNOWN TOURIST ATTRACTION BECOME AFFECTED BY INSURGENCY.
VAN OSS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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